Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended)   A method for monitoring and ~~control of~~controlling an IP budget of a subscriber, the IP budget limiting the total volume of IP packets transmitted from and to a user, a plurality of IP packets and a plurality of data bytes in the IP packets available in a packet-based communication network during online charge assessment of data transmissions, comprising:

providing a control function in a network node of the communication network which administers a central IP budget assigned by a charge computer; and

charging a central IP budget, with a level of the charge being determined on a data stream-specific basis, in accordance with assessment charges of the charge computer, for usage of resources of a data transmission of a number of data streams in a context which can be assigned to a subscriber.

2. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with claim 1, w h e r e i n a data stream-specific conversion factor or weighting factor is specified on the charge computer side for determining the level of the charger by a data stream, after transmission of a data volume in the data stream the transmitted data volume is weighted by the control function with the weighting factor, from this a corresponding proportion of the IP budget is determined and the proportion of the IP budget produced from this is deducted directly from the IP budget.

3. (Currently amended)   The method in accordance with claim 1, w h e r e i n to determine ~~the~~ a weighting factor, the control function accesses a table which comprises data stream-specific assessment charges for data streams which can be assigned to a subscriber.

4. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with c l a i m 1 , w h e r e i n a GPRS network is used as the packet-based communication network.

5. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with claim 4, w h e r e i n the control function is located in a GGSN.

6. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with c l a i m 1 , w h e r e i n when a new data stream is added, at least one of a new weighting factor, a new table, and an index to or identifier for a table element is transferred by the charge computer to the control function.

7. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with c l a i m 1 , w h e r e i n the central IP budget is charged for resource usage by those data streams which belong to one context to which an IP address of a same subscriber can be assigned.

8. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with c l a i m 1 , w h e r e i n the central IP budget is charged for usage of resources by those data streams which belong to a same context.

9. (Currently amended)   The method in accordance with c l a i m 1 , w h e r e i n ~~on~~ upon addition of a new data stream and upon usage of resources ~~on part of~~by the new data stream, the existing IP budget is charged and an additional IP budget is added to the existing IP budget.

10. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with claim 9, w h e r e i n the charge computer allocates to the control function an additional IP budget for administration.

11. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein
the control function, on addition and/or removal of at least one data stream, transfers a remaining IP budget to the charge computer and the charge computer assigns the control function a new IP budget.

12. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with c l a i m 1 , w h e r e i n the control function informs the charge computer about the addition and/or removal of a data stream and the charge computer gives the control function specifications about another use of the IP budget.

13. (Previously presented)   The method in accordance with c l a i m 2 , w h e r e i n the charge computer informs the control function by means of a table or a pointer to a position in a table about the weighting factor with which a transmitted data volume in a data stream is to be newly weighted in the event of a parameter change.